20

CLAIMS

1. A method for handling a call setup request (611, 7-10, 7-22, 7-24, 7-26, 7-42, 7-44, 7-46, 7-52, 7-52, 8-0, 10-4, 11-4) from an A party to a B party, characterized by

5   maintaining (601, 7-0, 10-0, 11-0), for the B party:
- multiple simultaneous caller groups (13), each caller group comprising one or more members;
- multiple simultaneous profiles (20);
- multiple simultaneous redirection settings (30); and

10   - multiple simultaneous associations (40) of a caller group, a profile and a redirection setting;
for each of several changes of reachability of the B party, receiving (603, 7-20, 7-40, 7-50, 10-2, 11-2) an indication of a current profile of the B party;

15   based on the call setup request, determining (613, 10-10, 11-6) the A party's identity;
based on the determined A party's identity, determining (614) one of the multiple simultaneous caller groups;
determining one of the multiple associations (40) that corresponds

20   to the determined caller group and the current profile of the B party;
processing the call setup request according to the redirection setting (30) of the determined association (40).

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized by maintaining the multiple simultaneous caller groups, profiles, redirection settings and asso-

25   ciations and processing the call setup request in a fixed network element (RS).

3. A method according to claim 1, characterized by maintaining the multiple simultaneous caller groups, profiles, redirection settings and associations and processing the call setup request in a terminal (511, RS') of the B party.

30   4. A method according to claim 1, characterized by maintaining the multiple simultaneous caller groups, profiles, redirection settings and associations both in a fixed network element (RS) and in a terminal (511, RS') of the B party.

21

5. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the fixed network element (RS) is in an access network (AN) serving the B party.

6. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the fixed network element (RS) is in a network (901) other than the access network (AN) serving the B party.

.7. A method according to claim 6, characterized by:
assigning a unique virtual number to the B party;
routing (11-8) the call setup request to the virtual number of the B party;
determining (11-10) the B party's identity based on the virtual number.

8. A method according to claim 3, characterized by routing a call to a C party by setting up (11-12 ... 11-18) a conference call between the A party and the C party.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the redirection setting (301 - 306) indicates that an incoming call is to be routed to a different number or network address.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the redirection setting (307 - 309) indicates a changed call mode, and the method comprises processing (7-45, 7-56, 8-10 ... 8-18) the call setup request according to the changed call mode.

11. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the changed call mode indicates an asymmetric call in which the A party and B party use different call modes.

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the changed call mode is a silent communication for the A party and/or the B party.

13. A method according to claim 12, characterized in that the silent communication is chatting.

14. A method according to claim 12, characterized in that the

22

silent communication is limited chatting.

15. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 14, charac-
terized in that the method comprises voice-to-text conversion and/or text-to-
voice conversion.

5   16. A method according to claim 12, characterized in that if the
current profile of the B party indicates silent communication for the B party, the
B party's terminal is automatically set to silent.

17. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, char-
acterized in that the profile comprises presence information (22) which is
10   returned to the A party.

18. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, char-
acterized in that the step of determining one of the multiple simultaneous
caller groups comprises determining all caller groups which the A party be-
longs to, and selecting one of the determined caller groups.

15   19. A reachability server (RS, RS') for handling a call setup request
(611, 7-10, 7-22, 7-24, 7-26, 7-42, 7-44, 7-46, 7-52, 7-52, 8-0, 10-4, 11-4) from
an A party to a B party, characterized by
a database (DB) for maintaining (601, 7-0, 10-0, 11-0), for the B
party:
20   - multiple simultaneous caller groups (13), each caller group com-
prising one or more members;
- multiple simultaneous profiles (20);
- multiple simultaneous redirection settings (30); and
- multiple simultaneous associations (40) of a caller group, a profile
25   and a redirection setting;
input means for receiving (603, 7-20, 7-40, 7-50, 10-2, 11-2) an in-
dication of a current profile of the B party each time the reachability of the B
party changes;
caller identifying means for determining (613, 10-10, 11-6) the A
30   party's identity based on the call setup request;
caller group determining means for determining (614) one of the
multiple simultaneous caller groups based on the determined A party's identity;
associations determining means for determining one of the multiple

23

associations (40) that corresponds to the determined caller group and the current profile of the B party; and

call processing means for processing the call setup request according to the redirection setting (30) of the determined association (40).

20. A reachability server (RS) according to claim 19, characterized in that the reachability server is located in an element of a fixed network (AN, DN, PSTN, 901).

21. A reachability server (RS') according to claim 19, characterized in that the reachability server is located in a terminal (511, RS') of the B party.